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NREL Highlights Leading Utility Green Power Programs

Pricing programs give consumers clean power choices

Golden, Colo., April 14, 2005 – The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) today released its annual ranking of leading utility green power programs. Under these voluntary programs, consumers can choose to help support additional electricity production from renewable resources such as solar and wind. Nearly 600 utilities in 34 states now offer these programs.

Using information provided by utilities, NREL develops "Top 10" rankings of utility programs in the following categories: total sales of renewable energy to program participants, total number of customer participants, customer participation rate, and the lowest price premium charged for a green pricing service using new renewable resources.

Ranked by sales of green power, the green power program of Austin (Texas) Energy is first in the nation, followed by Portland General Electric, PacifiCorp, Sacramento (Calif.) Municipal Utility District, and Xcel Energy.

Ranked by customer participation rates, the top utilities are Lenox (Iowa) Municipal Utilities, City of Palo Alto (Calif.) Utilities, Montezuma (Iowa) Municipal Light & Power, and (tie) Holy Cross Energy (Colo.), Moorhead (Minn.) Public Service, and Sacramento Municipal Utility District. (See attached tables for additional rankings).

"Customer participation in utility green power programs continues to grow across the country," said Lori Bird, senior energy analyst at NREL. "These utilities are the national leaders."

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Customer choice programs continue to be a powerful stimulus for growth in renewable energy supply. In 2004, sales of renewable energy through utility green power programs continued to exhibit strong growth, reaching 1.9 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh). Utility green pricing programs are one segment of a larger green power marketing industry that counts more than one-half million customers nationwide and helps support more than 1,600 MW of renewable electricity generation capacity.

NREL also found that several large utilities have lowered the rate premium charged in green pricing programs. "Purchases of renewable energy through utility green power programs are becoming increasingly affordable for consumers" said Blair Swezey, NREL principal policy advisor. He cited the improving economics of tapping renewable energy sources compared to traditional fossil fuels as a primary factor.

NREL's Energy Analysis Office performs analyses of green power market trends and is funded by DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

NREL is the U.S. Department of Energy's primary national laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development. NREL is operated for DOE by Midwest Research Institute and Battelle.

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Green Pricing Program Renewable Energy Sales
(as of December 2004)

Rank	Utility	Resources Used	Sales (kWh/year)	Sales (aMW) ^a
1	Austin Energy	Wind, landfill gas, small hydro	334,446,101	38.2
2	Portland General Electric ^b	Existing geothermal, wind, small hydro	262,142,564	29.9
3	PacifiCorp ^{cd}	Wind, biomass, solar	191,838,079	21.9
4	Sacramento Municipal Utility District ^e	Landfill gas, wind, small hydro, solar	176,774,804	20.2
5	Xcel Energy	Wind	137,946,000	15.7
6	National Grid ^{fgh}	Biomass, wind, small hydro, solar	88,204,988	10.1
7	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power	Wind and landfill gas	75,528,746	8.6
8	OG&E Electric Services	Wind	56,672,568	6.5
9	Puget Sound Energy	Wind, solar, biogas	46,110,000	5.3
10	We Energies ^e	Landfill gas, wind, small hydro	40,906,410	4.7

^a An "average megawatt" (aMW) is a measure of capacity equivalent that assumes the capacity operates continuously.

^b Some products marketed in partnership with Green Mountain Energy Company.

^c Includes Pacific Power and Utah Power.

^d Some Oregon products marketed in partnership with 3 Phases Energy Services.

^e Product is *Green-e* accredited (www.green-e.org).

^f Includes Niagara Mohawk, Massachusetts Electric, Narragansett Electric, and Nantucket Electric.

^g Marketed in partnership with Community Energy, CET & Conservation Services Group, EnviroGen, Green Mountain Energy Company, Mass Energy, People's Power & Light, and Sterling Planet.

^h Some products are *Green-e* certified (www.green-e.org).

**Total Number of Customer Participants
(as of December 2004)**

Rank	Utility	Program(s)	Participants
1	Xcel Energy	<i>Windsource Renewable Energy Trust</i>	40,990
2	PacifiCorp ^{ab}	<i>Blue Sky Block Blue Sky Usage Blue Sky Habitat</i>	36,125
3	Portland General Electric ^c	<i>Clean Wind Green Source Healthy Habitat</i>	33,491
4	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	<i>Greenenergy^d PV Pioneers I</i>	28,527
5	Los Angeles Department of Water & Power	<i>Green Power for a Green LA</i>	27,293
6	National Grid ^e	<i>GreenUp^{fg}</i>	14,978
7	Puget Sound Energy	<i>Green Power Program</i>	14,074
8	Alliant Energy	<i>Second Nature^d</i>	11,544
9	We Energies	<i>Energy for Tomorrow^d</i>	11,120
10	Florida Power and Light ^h	<i>Sunshine Energy</i>	10,674

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Customer Participation Rate
(as of December 2004)

Rank	Utility	Customer Participation Rate	Program(s)	Program Start Year
1	Lenox Municipal Utilities ^a	14.5%	<i>Green City Energy</i>	2003
2	City of Palo Alto Utilities ^b	10.9%	<i>Palo Alto Green^c</i>	2003
3	Montezuma Municipal Light & Power ^a	6.4%	<i>Green City Energy</i>	2003
4	Holy Cross Energy	5.2%	<i>Wind Power Pioneer Local Renewable Energy Pool</i>	1998 2002
4	Moorhead Public Service	5.2%	<i>Capture the Wind</i>	1998
4	Sacramento Municipal Utility District	5.2%	<i>Greenenergy^c PV Pioneers I</i>	1997 1993
7	Orcas Power & Light	4.7%	<i>Go Green</i>	1999
8	Portland General Electric ^d	4.3%	<i>Clean Wind Green Source Healthy Habitat</i>	2002
9	Central Electric Cooperative ^e	4.0%	<i>Green Power</i>	1999
10	Madison Gas & Electric	3.8%	<i>Wind Energy Program</i>	1999
10	River Falls Municipal Utilities ^f	3.8%	<i>Renewable Energy Program</i>	2001

^a Program offered in association with the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities.

^b Marketed in partnership with 3 Phases Energy Services

^c Product is *Green-e* accredited (www.green-e.org).

^d Some products marketed in partnership with Green Mountain Energy Company.

^e Power supplied by PNGC Power.

^f Program offered in association with Wisconsin Public Power Inc.

Price Premium Charged for New, Customer-Driven Renewable Power^a
(as of December 2004)

Rank	Utility	Resources Used	Premium (¢/kWh)
1	Avista Utilities	Wind	0.33
2	Austin Energy ^b	Wind, small hydro, landfill gas	0.50
3	Edmond Electric ^b	Wind	0.68
4	Clallam County Public Utility District	Landfill gas	0.70
5	Eugene Water and Electric Board ^b	Wind	0.71
6	PacifiCorp ^c	Wind, biomass, solar	0.78
7	OG&E Electric Services ^b	Wind	0.88
8	Wabash Valley Power Association ^d	Landfill gas	0.90
9	Roseville Electric	Geothermal, small hydro, solar	1.00
9	Sacramento Municipal Utility District ^e	Landfill gas, wind, small hydro	1.00
9	Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency	Wind	1.00

^a Includes only programs that have installed or announced firm plans to install or purchase power from 100% new renewable resources.

^b Premium is variable; customers in these programs are exempt or otherwise protected from changes in utility fuel charges.

^c Pacific Power product marketed in partnership with 3 Phases Energy Services

^d The premium charged by participating member distribution utilities varies from 0.9¢/kWh to 1.0¢/kWh.

^e Product is *Green-e* accredited (www.green-e.org).